

Central Assistance to Bihar

6053. SHRISYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total Central assistance sanctioned inclusive of grants to Bihar during 1990-91 and 1991-92;

(b) whether the complaints regarding improper utilisation of development funds have been referred to the State Government;

(c) whether the full amount of loans and grants which were sanctioned have been released to the State Government within the financial year; and

(d) if not, the amount of loan and grant actually released to the State Government

during each of the above financial years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) Total Central assistance (comprising loans and grants) allocated to Bihar is Rs. 1209.22 crores during 1990-91 and Rs. 1567.39 crores during 1991-92.

(b) Yes, Sir, One complaint has been referred to the State Government. However, another letter having a reference of improper utilisation of development funds in the State but seeking allocation of some funds on constituency basis, has not been referred to the State Government.

(c) and (d). The amounts of loans and grants allocated and released during the years 1990-91 and 1991-92 are as follows:-

(Rs. in crores)

	1990-91		1991-92	
	Loans	Grants	Loans	Grants
Allocation	803.21	406.01	1073.68	493.71
Released	948.83	418.93	798.57	476.38

The shortfall in 1991-92 was mainly due to a fall in Small Savings collections in the State.

Purchase of Newsprint

6954. SHRISYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 261 on March 13, 1992, and state:

(a) the date of agreement for the purchase of newsprint by the State Trading Corporation from FINNPAP;

(b) the date of communication of the

option for the purchase of additional quantity of newsprint by the STC from the FINNPAP;

(c) the date of advance by the STC to FINNPAP suspending the order; and

(d) the exact legal provision in the purchase agreement regarding the cancellation of orders already placed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). The date of agreement for the purchase of newsprint by STC from FINNPAP and the date of communication of the option for the purchase of